

**Najib Praises Ministries, Agencies For Working Tirelessly To Implement SRIs**  
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PETALING JAYA, May 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak praised the various ministries, agencies and organisations, both private and public, who are working tirelessly to implement the Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRIs) in efforts to make the Malaysian economy more competitive.

As policy measures, "the SRIs began less than a year ago and we are seeing some clear material outcomes," Najib, who is also Financer Minister, said when tabling the first progress update of the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) for this year.

He cited how the SRI on human capital development, including the Minimum Wage Act, which was gazetted only recently, clearly reflecting the parties involved were moving quickly to implement policy initiatives.

The human capital development SRI includes the addition of five more partners to the MyProCert programme aimed at upskilling Malaysians with international standard ICT professional certifications.

As for the competition, standards and liberalisation SRI, it encompasses the establishment of the Competition Appeal Tribunal, with the exclusive jurisdiction to hear appeals on decisions made by the Malaysian Competition Commission (MyCC), he said.

Competition, Standards and Liberalisation SRI also covers the development of 12 Malaysian Standards (MS) related to light emitting diodes (LED) were fast-tracked following the ban on incandescent light bulbs beginning January 2014 by the Energy, Green Technology and Water Ministry.

This also effected liberalisation of nine services sub-sectors -- accounting/taxation services, courier services, departmental and specialty stores, incineration services, private hospital services, skills training services, telecommunications and Technical and Vocational Schools/Technical and Vocational Schools (for students with special needs) -- allowing up to 100 per cent foreign equity with entry of foreign professionals permitted.

In the Public Finance SRI, Najib said the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) and Royal Malaysian Customs Department both implemented initiatives to improve tax administration and compliance.

This resulted in higher tax revenue for the IRB and Customs Department in the first quarter of 2012, amounting to RM192.8 million, surpassing its target collection of RM191.4 million, he added.

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